

## MISCELLANY

Items for the News column must be furnished by the twentieth of the preceding month. Under this department are grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and Twenty-five Years Ago. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

### NEWS

**The American College of Physicians, San Francisco, 1932.**—The American College of Physicians will hold its sixteenth Annual Clinical Session at San Francisco with headquarters at the Palace Hotel, April 4-8, 1932. Following the clinical session, a large percentage of the attendants will proceed to Los Angeles, where a program, principally of entertainment, will be furnished April 9, 10 and 11.

Announcement of the dates is made now with a view not only of apprising physicians generally of the meeting, but also to prevent conflicting dates with other societies that are now arranging their 1932 meetings.

Dr. S. Marx White, of Minneapolis, is president of the American College of Physicians, and will arrange the Program of General Session. Dr. William J. Kerr, Professor of Medicine at the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, is General Chairman of Local Arrangements, and will be in charge of the Program of Clinics. Dr. Francis M. Pottenger, of Monrovia, is president-elect of the college, and will be in charge of arrangements at Los Angeles. Mr. E. R. Loveland, executive secretary, 133-135 S. Thirty-sixth Street, Philadelphia, Pa., is in charge of general and business arrangements, and may be addressed concerning any feature of the forthcoming session.

### CORRESPONDENCE

**Subject of This Letter: "Medical Practice by Mail" \***

420 State Office Building  
Sacramento, California

June 16, 1931.

Mr. Albert Carter, Special Agent,  
Board of Medical Examiners,  
909 Pershing Square Building,  
448 South Hill Street,  
Los Angeles, California.

Yours of June 5, re: Carl F. Bokmeyer Remedy Company, medical practice by mail.

Dear Mr. Carter:

Medical practice by mail is no new innovation, inasmuch as far back as we can remember, advertising of extrastate medical concerns has been carried in the newspapers, and, we presume, will continue to be so carried.

The most flagrant example of practice by mail are the Chinese herbalists. Sporadically, the post office authorities issue a fraud order based upon the mail-order methods used by these Chinese herbalists, who immediately either change their name or the initial of their name or direct that mail be sent to another address, and continue merrily on without interruption. An example of this is Lau Yit Cho, Chinese herbalist of San Francisco, who, after it was reported that a fraud order had been issued denying him the use

of the mails, is said to have included in his newspaper advertisements direction that he be addressed at a different street number; hence, the fraud order was valueless.

Comment on this peculiar situation whereby individuals scorn our federal regulations appears in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 6, 1931, page 1975, in the paragraph headed "Holmes' Dead Shot." In said paragraph is related the evasion of fraud order by change of names, addresses, etc., the following comment being made: "It seems a pity that Holmes has not been prosecuted criminally by the federal authorities and sent to the penitentiary. Such flagrant flaunting of the powers of the United States Government by an obscure swindler is not likely to increase the respect of law-abiding citizens for their own government. Furthermore, such wholly inadequate punishment is not likely to act as a deterrent to other swindlers."

The *Journal of the American Medical Association* of June 6, 1931, page 1974, also carries the notation that a fraud order was issued November 8, 1930, against the Fong Wan Herb Company, Oakland, California, arising from advertising matter appearing in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *San Francisco Examiner*, it being related that "Examination and analysis of the herbs sold by this quack showed that they contained nothing that would be in any way beneficial or curative for the conditions for which they were recommended. . . ." The article further states the gross income of Fong Wan to have been \$50,000 annually.

After this fraud order had been issued, our attention was called to an advertisement of the Fong Wan Herb Company printed in a San Francisco Italian newspaper in which customers were directed to address their correspondence to Mr. Fong Poy, 578 Tenth Street, Oakland, rather than to the Fong Wan Herb Company, 576 Tenth Street, Oakland, which address was boycotted under the fraud order. In other words, to evade the fraud order, it was apparently only necessary to change the name and also the street number by two figures, i. e., from 576 to 578.

The Board of Medical Examiners has several times attempted to prosecute Fong Wan in Oakland for violation of the Medical Practice Act; however, according to the reports of our investigation department, the ways of the "wily Chinese" have seriously handicapped our endeavors.

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

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**Subject of the Following Letter: Army Medical Reserve Corps Classes of Major H. C. Mallory**

*To the Editor:* It may be of interest for members of the California Medical Association to know that members of our profession who are affiliated with the work of the Medical Reserve Corps of the U. S. Army have been indeed very fortunate during the past year in having the classes conducted by Major Herbert C. Mallory of the regular Medical Corps service and who is stationed at the Presidio.

Major Mallory came to us from the Pacific Northwest, where he greatly enlarged the scope and attendance of the Medical Reserve Corps classes, as well as the interest of the profession, developing a very enviable and enthusiastic attendance, both in numbers

\* Editor's Note.—See also item on "Chinese Herbalists," printed in California and Western Medicine, June 1925, page 470.